IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Dharmarajan et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MSFT115429
Application No.:	09/704,625	Group Art Unit:	2143
Filed:	November 2, 2000	Examiner:	P.H. Nguyen
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY CONFIGURING A SERVER COMPUTER		

RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 6, 2004, OFFICE ACTION

Seattle, Washington 98101

June 4, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The February 6, 2004, Office Action ("Office Action") rejected all the claims in this application (1-18) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being fully anticipated by the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,849 (Ludovici et al.). For the reasons hereinafter set forth, applicants respectfully disagree. In summary, applicants submit that Ludovici et al. does not even remotely suggest, much less anticipate, the subject matter of Claims 1-18. Many of these claims, including independent Claims 1 and 11, include recitations that are clearly not suggested by Ludovici et al.

Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe that all of the claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of applicants' invention and a brief description of the teachings of Ludovici et al. are provided. The following descriptions of applicants' invention and Ludovici et al. are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these descriptions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention is directed to a method, computer-readable medium, and apparatus for dynamically configuring a server computer. As stated in the abstract, a global configuration file is utilized to configure a server computer **on a per request basis**. When a **request** is received at a server computer, the server computer dynamically configures itself utilizing the contents of the global configuration file. The global configuration file contains configuration settings that may or may not be utilized by the server computer in configuring itself. To

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

determine if particular configuration settings should be utilized by the server computer in configuring itself, the server computer parses rules **also contained in the global configuration file**. If a rule is evaluated as true, configuration settings associated with the rule are used by the server computer when configuring itself. The server computer can then respond to the request utilizing its dynamic configuration. Thus, in one form, the invention is directed to a method for dynamically configuring a server computer. The method comprises receiving **a request for a resource** located at the server computer. The method further comprises, in response to the request, identifying one or more configuration settings **based upon the request.** The method also comprises evaluating a configuration rule using the configuration settings to determine whether the configuration rule is satisfied. In response to determining that the configuration rule is satisfied, the method further comprises adding one or more configuration settings associated with the configuration rule to the configuration settings to create new configuration settings. Finally, the method includes configuring the server computer based upon the new configuration settings.

In another form, the invention is directed to computer-controlled apparatus comprising a central processing unit, a memory, a network interface, a storage device, and a global configuration file stored on the storage device. The global configuration file comprises one or more configuration rules and one or more configuration settings associated with each configuration rule. The central processing unit is operative to execute instructions stored in the memory which causes the computer-controlled apparatus **to receive a request for a resource accessible to the computer-controlled** apparatus on or via the network interface and, **in response to the request**, identifying one or more configuration settings based upon the request. The central processing unit is also operative to execute instructions stored in the memory to cause the computer-controlled apparatus to evaluate one of the configuration rules to determine whether the configuration rule was satisfied and, in response to determining if the configuration rule is satisfied, adding the configuration settings associated with the configuration rule to a configuration setting file stored in the memory on the storage device. Finally, the central processing unit is also operative to execute instructions stored in the memory which cause the computer-controlled apparatus to respond to the request for a resource using the configuration settings.

Ludovici et al.(U.S. Patent No. 6,567,849)

Ludovici et al. is directed to a system and method for configuring and administering multiple instances of Web servers. More specifically, Ludovici et al. is directed to a system and a method for managing a plurality of instances of Internet connection servers. A Web browser

LAW OFFICES OF
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1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100